

**REMARKS**

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claims 9 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format, including the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner allowed Applicants' representatives to conduct an interview in the above-captioned patent application prior to submitting this response. Applicants are amending claims 1, 9, and 11 in accordance with Applicants' representatives interview with the Examiner, and are canceling claims 2-8 and 10, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, claims 1, 9, and 11-15 currently are pending in the above-captioned patent application and are subject to examination. Reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,684,918 B1 to Thilly et al. ("Thilly"). To the extent that this rejection remains applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

Applicants have canceled claims 2-8 and 10, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, the rejection of claims 2-8 and 10 is rendered moot.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include some of the limitations of original dependent claim 11, and the Examiner indicated that dependent claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format, including the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite "wherein a remaining part is consecutively provided through a **breaking part** on a base part of the connecting

part of the penetrating member, the remaining part is engaged with the injection needle connecting part, and **the breaking part is configured to be broken upon a separation of the connecting part of the penetrating member from the injection needle connecting part.**"

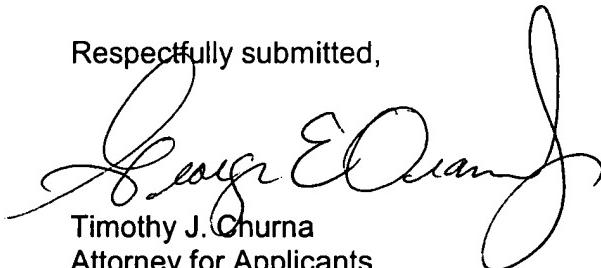
In contrast, in Thilly, connecting part 15 does not include any breaking parts that brake upon the separation of connecting part 15 from injection needle connecting part 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 at least for this reason.

Claims 9 and 11-15 depend from allowable independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also withdraw the rejection of claims 9 and 11-15 at least for this reason.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a further in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants are enclosing a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time to Respond and the amount of \$110 covering the large entity fee for such as extension, with this submission. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Timothy J. Churna  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 48,340

**Customer No. 004372**

AREN'T FOX PLLC  
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Telephone No. (202) 857-6000  
Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810

CMM/TJC:kif